New Haven 8th. Feb. 1814—

My Dear Sir

I have this day rec'd your fav. of the 3d inst. I greatly regret that it has not been in my power to meet your request relative to the Eprouvettes. It is a subject which I have maturely considered — and upon which I have clear & settled views in my own mind.

Add to the sincere disposition which I always feel, to comply with your wishes. I entertain a strong desire to see a standard established in the Ustates for proving powder, which shall be at once specific, uniform and convenient.

These dispositions, notwithstanding, I was already thronged with business, induced me to come to a determination that I would undertake to make the Eprouvettes — and I had the Steel selected, welded up and prepared for making 50 —

Being aware that it was impossible to depute any one to execute this business without my constant personal attention, I had for sometime been arranging my affairs, as fast as my indifferent state of health would permit, so as to enable me to enter upon it in earnest, with half a Dozen

workmen, when some circumstances occured which entirely deranged my whole concerns and which have caused them to remain so, for the last four months. To make you acquainted with these circumstances would require a detail too long for a letter — I will only observe at present that my chief embarrassment arises from the unwarrantable proceedings of the Commy Genl relative to my contract to manufacture Arms for the U States — which I will fully explain to you hereafter. —

It was my intention to have been at Washington before this time — My present expectation is, that I shall set out for that place in ten or twelve days.

The information you communicate concerning the "Proposition" before Congress relative to the manufacture of Arms, is to me exceedingly interesting. I had not heard a syllable of it before I rec.d your letter.

It is a business, which, so far as it relates to establishing Models, ought never to be left to the discretion of any one man, on earth. This important branch of the public service has been left to the whim & caprice of a rapid succession of individuals, who knew nothing of the subject, too long, already —

The Law should prescribe the mode of convening Commissioners, who, after the most attentive examination & the most matured deliberation, should fix upon Models. — No change in any model, so fixed upon, should be permitted, without the same deliberate consideration by a like board.

A suitable number of men of sound discretion & strict integrity (of whom one should be chief) should then be appointed to see that the Muskets &c were made conformable to the Models so established. —

Have the goodness to inform me somewhat more in detail what the project is.

Who is the Man under whose controul you suppose it is intended to place the Armouries &c? — Is it likely Congress will act upon it immediately? —

If you will write immediately on the receipt of this, I shall get your letter before I set out for Washington.

With great regard, I am,
D. Sir, Yr. sincere friend
E. Whitney

D. Wadsworth Esq—

E. Whitney
N. Haven 8 feb. 1814

respect.g. the Sprouvettes —
His Contr.t for Arms, & Diffe
culties with the Comy Genl

Answ.d — same month

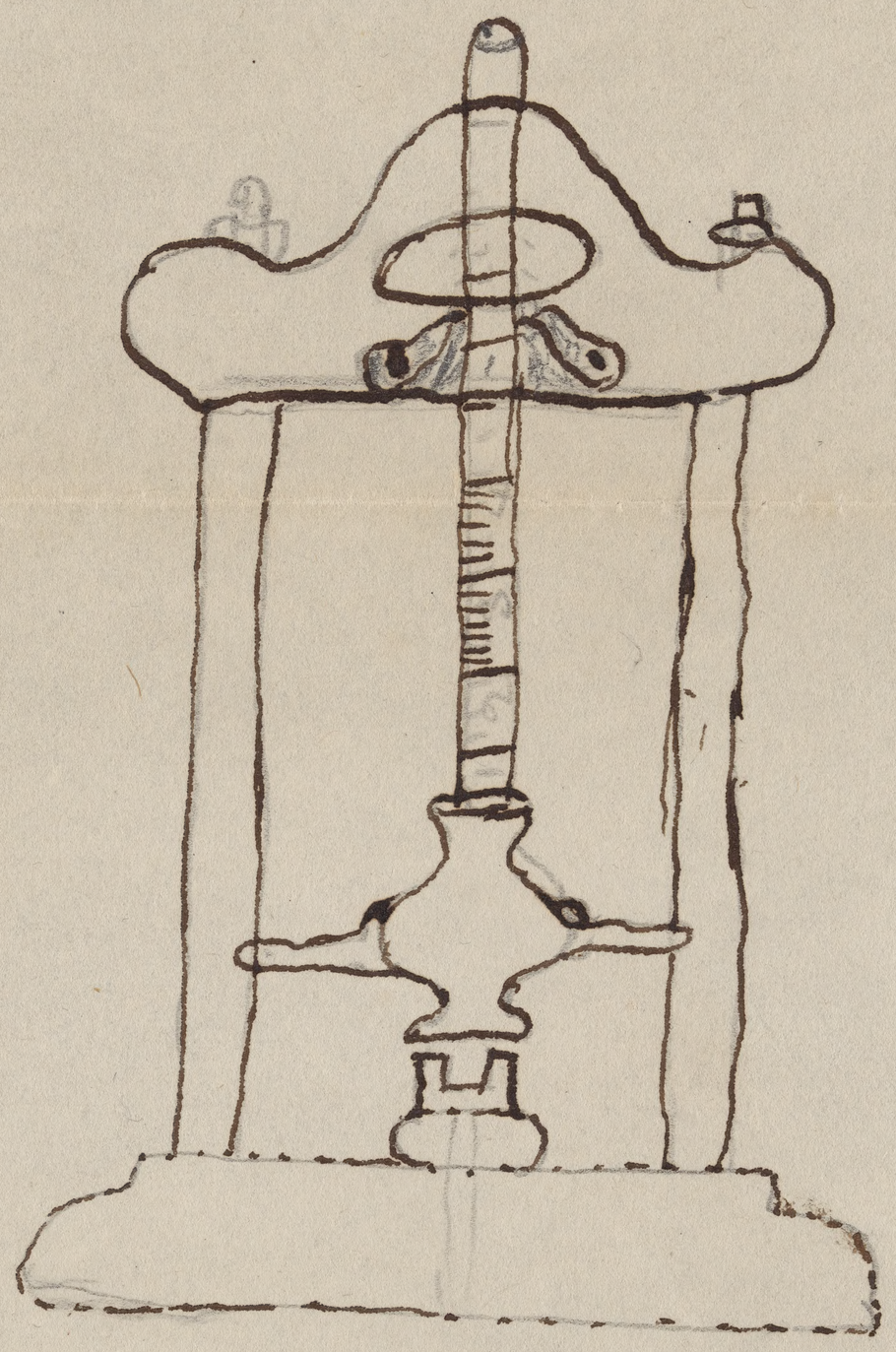
FR.L.

Decius Wadsworth Esq
Commissy Gen. of Ordnance
Washington

NEW HAVEN
FEB
9

DSI

Mr. Whitneys machine to prougeon handan



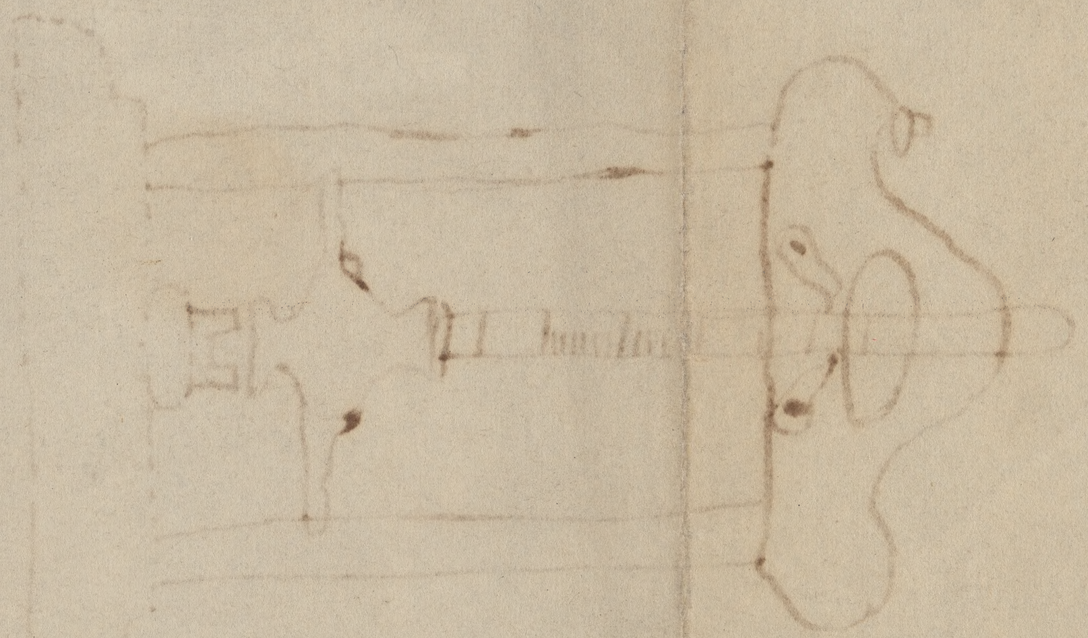
DSI

Mr Whitney's machine
to prove powder

aug.st 11 1810.

Eli Whitney

Proposal.



New Haven 21st June 1813

Amasa Davis Esq

Comsy Gen. Mass:

Sir.

Mr. Towne who at present resides in this place has communicated to me a verbal application from you on the subject of manufacturing Arms for the use of the State of Massachusetts — Mr. T. seems to be under an impression that the number immediately wanted by that State is twenty thousand stands —

I am at present under engagements to manufacture about two thousand muskets a year for several years to come, which is not more than two thirds the number which I can & wish to make —

I shall be happy to serve my native State

and will undertake to manufacture for its use
One Thousand muskets p.r year. for a term not
less than five years

Your further communications on this
subject will meet with the prompt and
respectful attention of

Yr. Obt. Servt.

Eli Whitney
"

Inventor of
Cotton Gin.

DSi

Eli Whitney

New Haven

Dec Jun 25. 1813

Boston

James Davis Esq.

NEW HAVEN CT.
JUN
21

New Haven 9th July 1814.

Sir,

It has been agreed by the Secretary of War that I shall proceed to execute my Contract with the US States in conformity to the terms thereof, as relates to the Model, payments &c.—

having made no other alterations in the original stipulations, except as to the times of delivery — it being agreed that the first five hundred muskets shall be ready for delivery in this present month of July and that not more than three thousand, nor less than fifteen hundred, shall be delivered, in each year thereafter.

A Copy of Genl. Armstrong's letter, to you, of the 25th ultimo, so far as it relates to this subject, has been furnished to me from the Department of war.—

I have now to inform you that I have

five hundred muskets ready for Inspection and delivery, and to request that you will inform me, by whom they will be inspected and received and at what time an Inspector will be here.

With due consideration,
I am, Sir, Yr. Obt. Servt.

Eli Whitney
11

Callender Irvine Esq.
Commissary Genl.

DSI

E. Whelan -
wants his Musketi examined
Tho on July
9th July 1884

N Haven 8th Aug 1814

Dr Sir

On the 6th of July, the day I arrived here, I wrote to Callender Irvine informing him of the arrangement which had taken place between me and the Secretary of War, and requesting him to send an inspector immediately to inspect and receive 500 Muskets which I had in readiness— to this letter I have rec'd no answer — On the 29th of July I rec'd a letter from him requesting to know when the arms would be ready for inspection, that the inspector whom he should send might not be detained — On the 30th of the same I sent him a Duplicate of my letter of the 6th — and informed him further that the arms has be ready more than three months. & requested him to inform me by the Mail, about or what day an inspector would be here & I would make preparations & every thing should be so arranged: that he might commence the inspection on the first hour after his arrival here — and to

this last letter I have rec'd no answer.—

It is now a whole year since my business has been delayed and embarrassed by this mad— I have now a thousand firearms muskets on hand which are not only in my way & exposed to the common casualties of fire &c but are somewhat exposed to be destroyed by the Enemy— and at the same time I am kept out of the pay for them, of which I am much in want. — and I am sorry to say that I entertain serious apprehensions that it will be several months after the arms are delivered, before I get the money for them, if it is to come through the hands of Irvine — The public business cannot go on in this way, nor can private concerns which are connected with those of the public— If this shameful delay is continued much longer I shall remonstrate against it, directly to the President or Secretary of War— The truth is that Irvine is neither a Gentleman nor a man of Business —

As all the Arsenals, magazines, arms, ammunition &c. are by Law placed under your direction, I presume it is properly your province to direct to whom I shall deliver the Muskets which I make for the U States and where they shall be deposited— This is a circumstance which did not occur to me until lately— It is clear to my mind that you ought to direct the disposal of them after they are inspected—

If you should be of the same opinion, it will be necessary for you to appoint a person here to receive them— In the present state of the country I should think it improper to store them in the City of New Haven— This State has lately built an Arsenal at Hartford— Perhaps they might be deposited there for the present.

My present object is only to suggest these considerations to your mind; I shall write you

a more formal letter on the duty at shortly. If the arms should ever be inspected I should be sorry to have any delay take place with regard to the delivery.

Your answer to my letter of 16 July relative to the proof of Musket Barrels, was duly rec^d.—

About the Sword I find I had your Rifle put in repair, put it up in form of a Packet & sent to you by mail, but as you have not mention the receipt of it, I fear it has miscarried—

Should you obtain any information which may have a material bearing upon the question of Peace & War, you will render me a particular service by an early communication of it; as it may essentially affect my measures for procuring Coals & Iron for the supply of my Manufactory.

I remain, Dr Sir,
Y^r friend & ob^t Servt

E. Whitney

Deems Woodworth Esq.

E. Whitney
1814. Asks Acceptance of
his Muskets—
S. Am. Sq.
Del.
3/13

New Haven
8th Aug. 1814

Dear Sir:

On the 8th of July, the day I arrived here, I wrote to Callender Irvine informing him of the arrangement which had taken place between me and the Secretary of War, and requesting him to send an inspector immediately to inspect and receive 500 muskets which I had in readiness - to this letter I have received no answer - On the 29th of July I received a letter from him requesting to know when the arms would be ready for inspection, that the inspector whom he should send might not be detained - on the 30th of the same I sent him a duplicate of my letter of the 9th - and informed him further that the arms have been ready more than three months. I requested him to inform me by the mail, about on what day an inspector would be here and I would make preparations , and everything should be so arranged that he might commence the inspection on the first hour after his arrival here - and to this last letter I have had no answer -

It is now a whole year since my business has been delayed and interrupted by this man - I have now a thousand finished muskets on hand which are not only in my way and exposed to the common casuaties of fire. etc., but are somewhat exposed to be destroyed by the enemy - and at the same time, I am kept out of the pay for them, of which I am much in want. And I am sorry to say that I entertain serious apprehensions that it will be several months after the arms are delivered before I get the money for them, if it is to come through the hands of Irvine - The public business cannot go on in this way, nor can private concerns which are connected with those of the public - if this shameful

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I remain, dear sir,

Your friend and
obedient servant

E. Whitney

D. Wadsworth, Esq.

New Haven
21 June, 1813

Amasa Davis, Esq.
Commisary General of Mass.

Sir:

Mr. Towne who at present resides in this place has communicated to me a verbal application from you on the subject of manufacturing arms for the use of the State of Massachusetts.

Mr. T. seems to be under an impression that the number immediately wanted by that State is twenty thousand -----

I am at present under engagements to manufacture about two thousand muskets a year for several years to come, which is not more than two thirds the number which I can and wish to make.

I shall be happy to serve my native state and will undertake to manufacture for its use one thousand muskets per year for a term not less than five years

Your further communications on this subject will meet with prompt and respectful attention of

Your obedient servant

Eli Whitney

New Haven 8th. Feb. 1814-

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Added to the sincere disposition which I always feel, to comply with your wishes, I entertain a strong desire to see a standard established in the UStates for proving powder, which shall be at once specific, uniform and convenient.

These dispositions, notwithstanding, I was already thronged with business, induced me to come to a determination that I would undertake to make the Eprouvettes - and I had the Steel selected, welded up and prepared for making 50 -

Being aware that it was impossible to depute any one to execute this business without my constant personal attention, I had for some time been arranging my affairs, as fast as my indifferent state of health would permit, so as to enable me to enter upon it in earnest, with half a Dozen workmen, when some circumstances occured which intirely derenged my whole concerns and which have caused them to remain so, for the last four months. To make you acquainted with these circumstances would require a detail too long for a letter - I will only observe at present that my chief embarrassment arises from the unwarrantable proceedings of the Commssy Genal. relative to my contract to manufacture Arms for the UStates - which I will fully explain to you hereafter.-

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It is a business, which, so far as it relates to establishing Models, ought never to be left to the decesion of any one man, on earth. This important branch of the public service has been left to the whim & caprice of a rapid succession of individuals, who knew nothing of the subject, too long, already - The Law should prescribe the mode of convening Commissioners, who, after the most attentive examination & the most mature deliberations, should fix upon models. - No change in any model, so fixed upon, should be permitted, without the same deliberate considerations by a like board.

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If you will write immediately on the receipt of this, I shall get your letter before I set out for Washington.

With great regard, I am,
Dr Sir, y^{r} sincere friend

E. Whitney

D. Wadsworth Esq-

[Address leaf]

[Six-line docket]

Decius Wadsworth Esq
Comm^{ssy} Gen. of Ordnance
Washington

WHITNEY, ELI, Inventor. A.L.s., 4 pp., 4to, New Haven, August 8, 1814. To D. Wadsworth. (*Pa. Collector*)

REGARDING TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF MUSKETS HE HAS MANUFACTURED FOR THE USE OF THE ARMY.

"On the 9th of July, the day I arrived here, I wrote to Callender Irvine informing him of the arrangement which had taken place btween me and the Secretary of War, and requesting him to send an inspector immediately to inspect and receive 500 *muskets which I had in readiness . . . It is now a whole year since my business has been delayed and embarrassed by this man. I have now a thousand finished muskets on hand which are not only in my way & exposed to the common casuaties of fire &c., but are somewhat exposed to be destroyed by the enemy . . . If this shameful delay is continued much longer I shall remonstrate against it, directly to the President or Secretary of War. The truth is that Irvine is neither a gentleman nor a man of business. As all the arsenals, magazines, arms, ammunition, &c. are by law placed under your direction I presume it properly your province to direct to whom I shall deliver the muskets. . . ."*

A MOST INTERESTING DOCUMENT REGARDING PERSONS *suspected to be infected with contagious sickness of the small-pox, as is supposed by inoculation (in direct viola of the law) . . .*" The document is addressed "*To Whom it May Concern*".

242. WILLIAMS, WILLIAM, Signer from Connecticut. A.D.s. (on the verso of a document), 1 p., folio, Lebanon, April 22, 1785. (*Madigan*)

The document in the autograph of Williams is signed by him and four Selectmen of Lebanon; it is addressed to the Treasurer and certifies that the names of the persons on the other side of the sheet "*late inhabitants of the Town of Lebanon & assessed by Mr. Elijha Hutchinson, are . . . one or two of them dead & the rest absconded . . . before ye Collector had opportunity to collect their several taxes. . . .*"

the U.S. for the government, mentions Albert Gallatin.

Dec. 8, 1807. "*Capt. Anthony had a long passage back as well as forward, but has arrived in safety about a week since . . . after a storm that proved very disastrous . . . several vessels being lost . . . A ship belonging to J. A. Parker was cast away . . . The hull has been saved . . . The Marie arrived the 27th ulto. with an excellent cargo of white oil, absent less than* 16 *months; brought accounts from the Phebe Ann . . . We have about* 30 *ships now in harbor and business remains at a stand. French decrees &*

WHITNEY, Eli
1765 - 1825

New Haven - June 21, 1813
To Amasa Davis, Commisary
General of Mass.
Concerning manufacture of
arms for the State

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188. **WHITNEY, ELI.** [American Inventor, 1765-1825.]

AUTOGRAPH LETTER, SIGNED *"E. Whitney"*. Three pages, quarto. New Haven, February 8, 1814. To Decius Wadsworth, Commissary General of Ordnance.

AN IMPORTANT AUTOGRAPH LETTER BY ELI WHITNEY RELATIVE TO THE STANDARDS FOR PROVING GUNPOWDER AND TO THE NECESSITY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF UNIFORM FIRE ARMS. Whitney held a contract from the government for the manufacture of fire arms and he was anxious to secure uniform models upon which all guns made for the army could be based.

The letter reads in part as follows: *"It is a business, which, so far as it relates to establishing* Models, *ought never to be left to the decision of any* one man, *on earth. This important branch of public service has been left to the whim & caprice of a rapid succession of individuals, who know nothing of the subject, too long, already—The* Law *should prescribe the mode of convening* Commissioners, *who, after the most attentive examination & the most mature deliberation, should fix upon* Models.—*No changes in any model, so fixed upon, should be permitted, without the same deliberate consideration by a like board."*

ELI WHITNEY 1765-1825

Yale graduate in 1792, invented cotton gin that reduced cotton-growing labor that brought prosperity to South. Government contract for manufacturing rifles, 1798, prompted him to devise factory assembly methods and interchangeable parts. This letter, to General of Ordnance, Wadsworth, New Haven, 1814, concerns the proving of gunpowder for use in uniform standards for firearms. The letter, left, concerns Whitney's contract with the U.S. for 20,000 muskets of which, he informs Comm. Gen. Irvine, 500 are now ready. Whitney's drawing is "to prove gunpowder".

188 WHITNEY, ELI. 1765-1825. American inventor of the cotton gin. Manufacturer of fire arms for the Army. A.L.S., 2¼ pp., quarto, New Haven, June 1813. To the Commissary General of the Army. Fine condition. Rare. $450.00

The letter reads in part: "Until since the receipt of your letter, it had never occurred to me that my Contract could possibly be construed in the way in which you appear to understand it—500 Muskets should have been delivered on the first of May last and at least one thousand more within a year from that time—The Muskets are all to be delivered in parcels of 500 each, and it was estimated that there would be a lapse of at least three months between each delivery—The Secretary of War was fully apprized that it would take me nearly one year to complete my engagements . . . I have from two to three thousand Locks on hand, and the Bayonets, Ramrods & Mounting, for a like number. . . . I shall most unquestionably be able to deliver at least 1500 within the year from the first of May last."

E 1973 (not purchased)

Goodspeed

of the telegraph. A handsome, single page, quarto letter written and signed by him from New York in 1846. To H. T. Tuckerman. $300.00

The letter reads in part: "I am at this moment confined to the house by an accident, by which I received a slight hurt in my leg which may detain me in the city a day longer. I was on my way Westward to inspect the Telegraphic Stations, and must leave, so soon as it is prudent. . . . I shall be happy to converse with you on the subject of your letter." (see cut opposite)

145 [NAPOLEON.] BARON GASPARD GOURGAUD. (1783-1852.) French Army officer who served with Napoleon in exile at St. Helena. A.L.S., one page, small quarto, Paris, 1828. A pleasant letter in fine condition. $20.00

While at St. Helena, Napoleon dictated to Gourgaud his *History of France Under Napoleon* which was published in 1822.

[Noah Webster, continued]

New Haven, April 24, 1841. To Gideon Hawley, Albany. With integral address leaf attached. Fine. $200.00

"Mr. Medfield...goes to Albany with a few copies of the new edition of the *American Dictionary* for sale. This edition is much improved and the typographical execution is thought to surpass any works of the kind.... I enclose for your reading a manuscript which I had at first intended to be addressed to the regents of the university. But I know not that it would be becoming for me or useful to others. When I see what books are used in schools...I pretty much despair of ever doing any good by my publications...."

162. WHITNEY, Eli. Inventor of the cotton gin. Autograph Letter Signed, two full pages, quarto, New Haven, May 3, 1824. With integral address leaf. To Colonel George Bomford, Ordnance Department. Fine. $450.00

"I this day forwarded vouchers for the delivery of 505 muskets. As this completes the deliveries on the old contract, I have delayed sending on the vouchers with a hope that I should have been able to have made out a full statement of the account...but the infirm state of my health has been such that it has not been in my power to accomplish it. You will recollect that...the reason why no more than twelve dollars each was allowed on the last thousand muskets...was that Mr. Wickham had then recently contracted to deliver muskets at that price.... By the terms of my original contract made with the Secretary of War, for 15,000 muskets, the barrels were to be made forty inches long, which at the time was considered...as the most proper length.... Afterwards, when the Ordnance Dept. was organized, great consideration and considerable expense was bestowed on the subject of fixing upon a standard model for the U. States musket, and it was finally decided that the length of the barrel should be 42 inches.... I proposed to make the barrels 42 instead of 40 inches long...provided a fair allowance should be made to me for the extra expense of making them two inches longer. To this proposition the Ordnance Dept. readily acceeded. The amount to be allowed on this account has never been fixed upon. I shall be desirous of closing the accts. relative to the old contract as soon as the state of my health will enable me to attend to it."

(not bt) Rendell 73

"THE TRIUMPH OF LIBERTY

New York August 10th 1789

Sir,

Agreeably to the Resolution of Congress of the 5th. June, I do myself the honor to enclose to your Excellency an Act for settleing the accounts between the United States and Individual States.

I have the Honor to be,

With due consideration

Your Excellencys

New Haven 21st June 1813

Tenas. Davis Esq
Comss Gen. Mass:

Sir.

Mr. Towne who at present resides in this place has communicated to me a verbal application from you on the subject of manufacturing Arms for the use of the State of Massachusetts —

Mr. T. seems to be under an impression that the number immediately wanted by that State is twenty thousand stands —

I am at present under engagements to manufacture about two thousand Muskets a year for several years to come, which is not more than two thirds the number which I could & wish to make —

I shall be happy to serve my native State

and will undertake to manufacture for its use One thousand muskets pr. year. for a term not less than five years ——

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Yr. Obdt. Servt.

Eli Whitney

Eli Whitney

New Haven

Jr. June 25. 1813

Boston

NEW HAVEN
JUN 25
1813

James Davis Esqr.

nor a man of Business ——

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Perhaps they might be deposited there for the present.

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Mtown 8th Aug 1814

Dr Sir

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I remain, Dr Sir,
Y^r faithful & ob^t Servt
E. Whitney

Decius Wadsworth Esq.

E. Whitney
1811. Augt 8
Ans^d Augt 13
to his Musket-
Barrels

New Haven 9th July 1814.

Sir

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A Copy of Gen. Armstrong's letter to you, of the 25th ultimo, so far as it relates to this subject, has been furnished to me from the Department of War.

I have now to inform you that I have

NEW HAVEN
JULY
1[illegible]

FREE

Callender Irvine Esq
Commissary General
Philadelphia

E. Whitney -
wants his muskets examined
500 in July
9th. July 1814

five hundred Muskets ready for Inspection
and delivery, and to request that you will
inform me, by whom they will be inspec
-ted and received and at what time and
Inspector will be here.

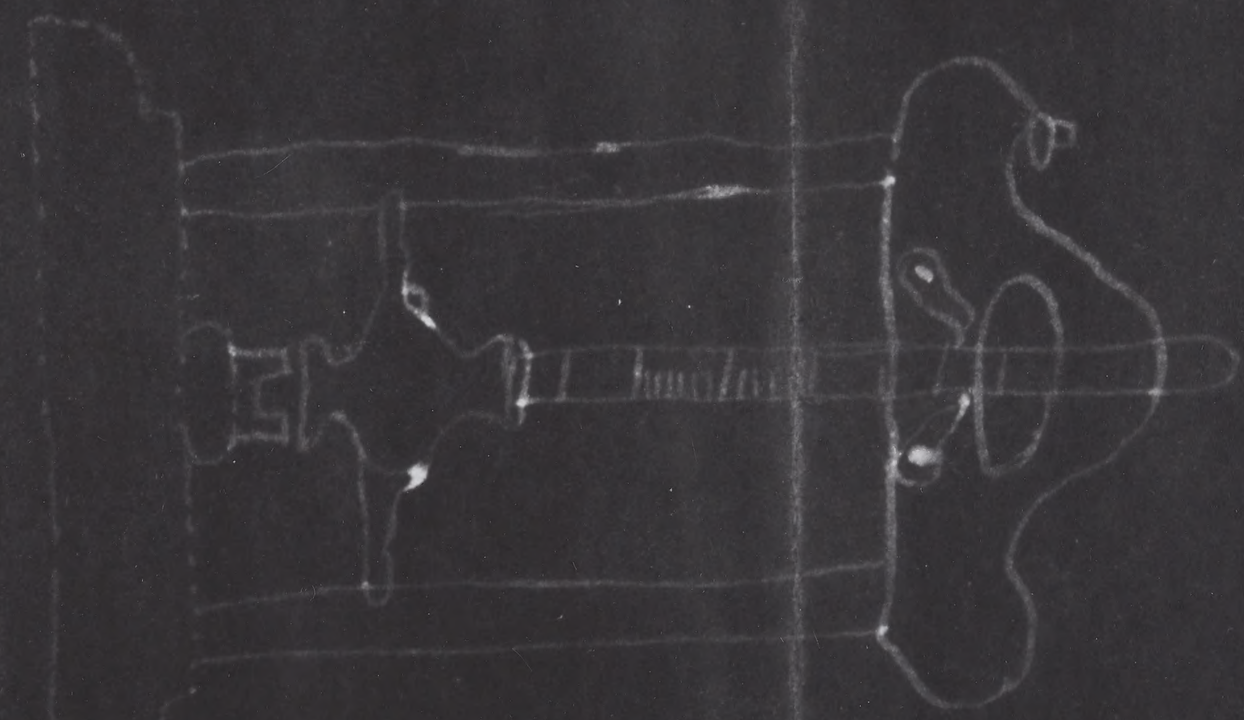
With due consideration,
I am, Sir, Y. Obt Servt

Eli Whitney

Callender Irvine Esq.
Commissary Genl

Mr Whitney's machine
to prove powder

aug.st 1810.

Eli Whitney

Proposal.